S/N: 08/975,940

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REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants have not amended any of the claims in the application.

Claims 36 through 47 remain pending in the application. There are 8 independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are submitting a new information disclosure statement.

Included in the listed items is United States Patent No. 6,643,986, entitled "Diaphragm with Perimeter Edging on Structural Panels", filed June 12, 1997, and granted November 11, 2003. The inventors for 6,643,986, are Alfred D. Commins and Robert C. Gregg.

The present application and the above-identified patent disclose and claim related subject matter. Furthermore, the inventors for both the application and the above-identified patent have a duty to assign the invention to Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc., the common owner. In fact, assignments by the inventor to Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc. for both have been recorded in the United States Patent Office.

The present application relates to a specific type of building wall that has installed within it a sub-component shear resisting assembly. Means for reducing bending of the perimeter fastener, referred to as boundary edging members in the present application, can be a part of the sub-component, shear resisting assembly, as is called for in claims 43 and 47.

The above-identified patent relates to an improved connection using means for reducing perimeter fasteners that is part of a diaphragm for resisting lateral forces. All of the claims of the above patent relate to the means for reducing bending of the perimeter fasteners.

30 Conclusion

Applicants request further examination of the application in light of the information disclosure statement submitted herewith at the earliest convenience.

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The undersigned wishes to state that if the Examiner has questions about this response, the undersigned would be most happy to try to answer them on the telephone. 5 Respectfully submitted, Reg. No. 41694 Charles R. Cypher 10 Applicant's attorney 1607 Financial Center Building Date: March 162004 405, 14th Street Oakland, CA 94612-2747 Telephone: (510) 832-4111 Fax: (510) 832-4115 15 20 25

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